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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,871	08/06/2003	Noam Kedem	246/217	7627
71511	7590	11/21/2007	EXAMINER	
MARK M. FRIEDMAN C/O DISCOVEY DISPATCH, 9003 FLIRIN WAY UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772			FIGUEROA, FELIX O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,871

Applicant(s)

KEDEM, NOAM

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,8-10,13,16 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,8-10,13,16 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the rejection(s) against independent claim 13 (and dependent claims 3, 8-10, 16 and 18-22), but reversed all rejections against claim 4 dependent thereon. Prosecution is otherwise closed.

In view of the Board decision on 09/05/2007, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED as to claim 4. Prosecution is otherwise closed. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13, 3, 8-10, 16 and 18-22 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meng (US 6,231,399), as set forth in the Final Office action of 01/11/2006 and affirmed by the Board on 09/05/2007.

Regarding claim 13, Meng discloses system board (col.2, line 57) comprising a connector (10) that includes: a first port (14) situated on the system board; a second port (16) facing inward to an interior of the system board; and a peripheral device (not shown) operationally connected to the inward-facing port. Meng does not disclose the first port being situated at an exterior edge of the system board and facing outward from the exterior edge. However, Meng discloses that "changes may be made in detail, especially in the matters of shape, size and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention" (col. 3 lines 3-5). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the first port situated at an exterior edge of the system board and facing outward from the exterior edge, as a matter of inventors preference and/or to provide greater accessibility to the first port.

Regarding claim 3, Meng discloses the ports being substantially functionally identical.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meng (US 6,231,399) in view of Zhu et al. (US 6,142,833).

Meng, as modified, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the ports being USB ports. Zhu teaches a system board comprising: a connector (Fig. 1) that includes: a first port (at 21) situated at an exterior edge of the system board and

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facing outward from said exterior edge, and a second port (at 23); the ports being USB ports, thus providing an efficient and reliable interface between the connector and the peripheral device, by reducing the number of electrical contacts and thus reducing the number of parts that can be damaged. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the ports of Meng as USB ports, as taught by Zhu, in order to provide an efficient and reliable interface between the connector and the peripheral device, by reducing the number of electrical contacts and thus reducing the number of parts that can be damaged.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Liu et al. (US 2004/0026516) discloses a printed circuit board (12) with a leading edge including a USB interface (at 22).

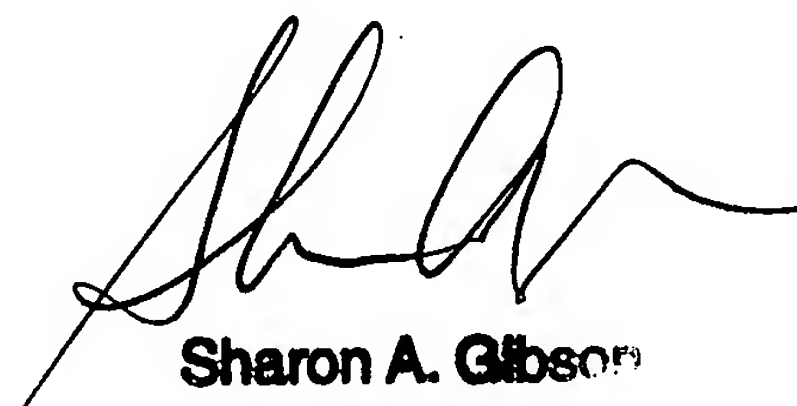
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Felix O. Figueroa/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2833



Sharon A. Gibson
Director
Technology Center 2833